

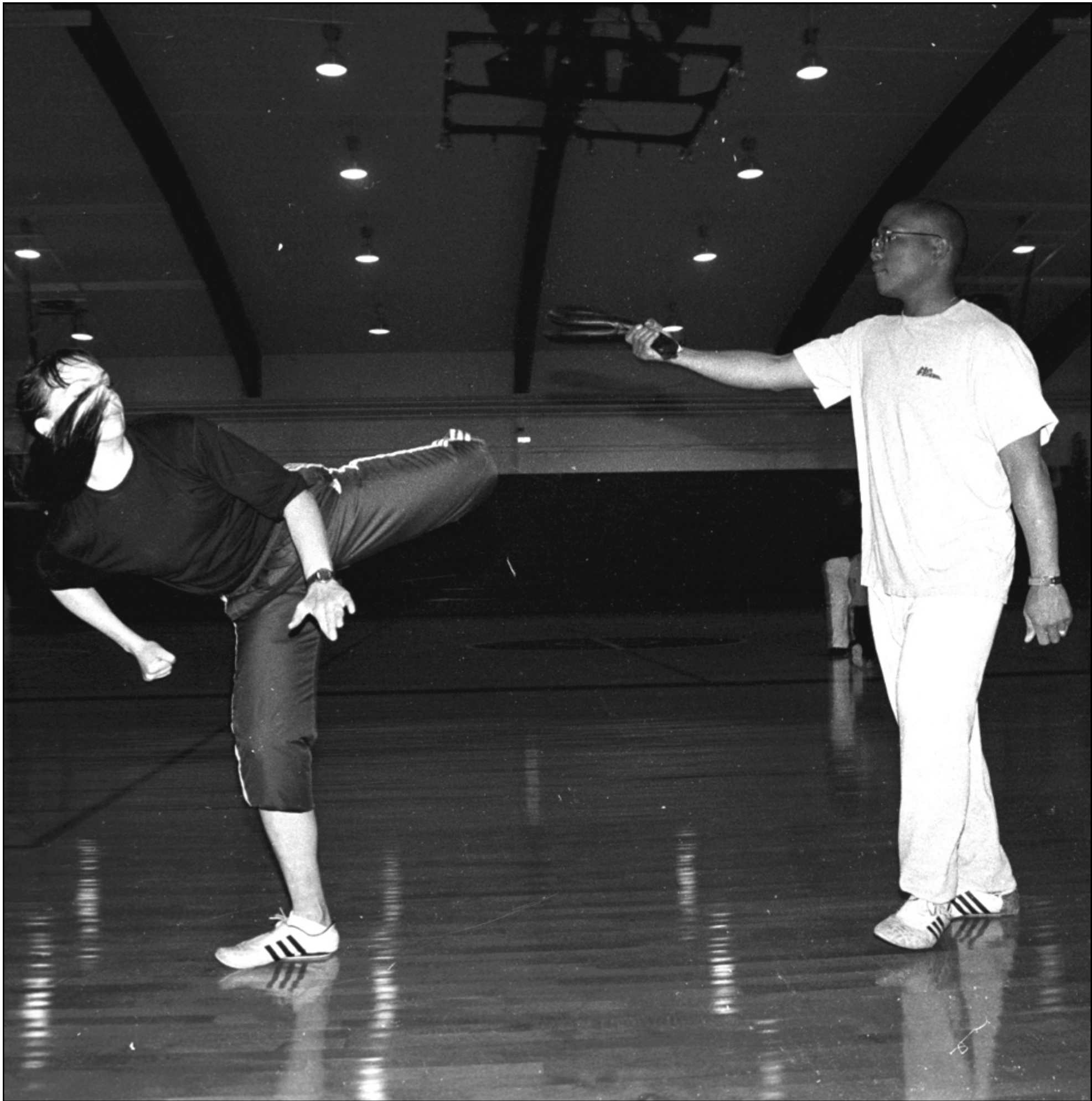
Fort Huachuca

get TimeOut

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Pfc. Yelene Pisarenko, former Good Conduct Medal clerk, Company A, 306th Military Intelligence Battalion practices for the Tae Kwon Do All Army trials in Pennsylvania.

Former award clerk kicks way into All Army tryouts

By Sgt. Cullen James
Scout Staff

“I’ve been wanting this. Whatever it takes, I’m not giving up,” said Pfc. Yelene Pisarenko, former Good Conduct Medal clerk, Company A, 306th Military Intelligence Battalion.

Pisarenko’s a Tae Kwon Do professional who’s been trying to get on the All Army Tae Kwon Do team since she first joined the Army.

She left Monday for a selection camp in Pennsylvania. Her eventual goal — to make it to the Olympics and win the gold.

The 14-day selection camp will choose team members based on a medal system. Gold medallists will be Team A members, silver will be Team B and bronze medallists “will go home,” Pisarenko said. Team A is the competition team and Team B members fill in when someone from Team A is injured, she added.

“The trials camp is going to be very intense training,” Pisarenko said. “It’s 14 days of running and training. We’ll be sparring and showing our form to the selections committee. They’ll be trying to break us down because they want to pick the best.”

After the trials, the selected team members don’t get a break. “After the teams are picked, we go to a few tournaments,” Pisarenko explained. “First is an armed forces competition, then a nationals tournament. Then the Army goes to a civilian competition. Then we get to go back to [Colorado Springs, where the All Army teams train].”

Prior to her selection, Pisarenko increased her training regimen to get into the kind of shape she wanted to be in. She had been working two extra civilian jobs outside of her Army duties and attending school. “I quit both my jobs months ago so I could train five hours a day,” she said. “I’m still going to school though — I have my finals [right before I leave].”



Pisarenko hammers out some kicks with Andre Lewis during practice.



Photos by Spc. Joseph Mykal Scarfone

Pfc. Yelene Pisarenko, former Good Conduct Medal clerk, Company A, 306th Military Intelligence Battalion, practices at Barnes Field House prior to leaving for the All Army selection camp in Pennsylvania.

To get in her five-hour training sessions, Pisarenko explained she had to get up two hours early to train in the morning. She’d go to work, have a lunchtime class, finish work and then go train more. After training, she’d finally get home and have to finish her homework. “It’s been very hard,” she said.

Pisarenko was earning extra money to pay for airline tickets back to Russia to see

her family and to help pay for her family’s paperwork and trip to the U.S. She’s attempting to get her family over to the U.S., but “the paperwork’s still being processed,” she said. “Hopefully, after the trials and all the tournaments I’ll be able to go see them. Maybe I’ll be able to bring my sisters back with me.”

With many hours of training and having worked many jobs, one of the questions Pisarenko has been asked often is what she does for fun. “The big question!” she said with a laugh. “I do Tae Kwon Do for fun,” she said. “When I finally get as fast as I want or get a certain move down a certain way — that’s when it’s fun for me.

“I also call my family for fun,” she added. “My family’s very supportive. [When they found out] I was going to the trials they weren’t surprised. They expected it actually. My father especially. He told me he hoped I made the number one slot — like usual — to win gold medals, and to come home.”

Although the Army and the Olympics are her two main goals currently, she’s still planning to continue attending college and finish a degree. “I want to be a nurse eventually. I like helping people. I think I’ll be good at it,” Pisarenko said. “That way, I’ll also have back up in case I ever become injured doing Tae Kwon Do.”

The application process for getting accepted to the All Army team has been a long one, Pisarenko said, but it wasn’t very difficult. “Basically, you just put together an ap-

plication, kind of like a resume. They already knew me because I’d done some sparring against the All Army team in 1996,” she said. Pisarenko joined the Army in March 1999. Prior to that she was a member of the Russian National Tae Kwon Do Team and the Russian Reserve Army.

Though the process wasn’t difficult, Pisarenko explained it could have been hard had it not been for the support of her chain of command and other facilities on Fort Huachuca. “I’d like to thank my commander [Capt. James Baker, commander, Company A, 306th MI Bn.] my first sergeant [1st Sgt. Fernando Martinez-Irizarry, A/306th MI Bn. first sergeant], and in my section Staff Sgt. [Lisa] Bassett-Collins. They’ve all been very nice and very supportive. Also, the [Fort Huachuca Morale, Welfare and Recreation] Sports Office has been very helpful. They always called me anytime they got any messages or any information about the All Army stuff.”

With confidence in her abilities, Pisarenko was sure she would be representing the Army in Tae Kwon Do very soon. “I’m pretty sure I’ll make it. But, you can’t be too overconfident. It’s just that I won’t give up. I’m going to do what I have to.

“In Tae Kwon Do, you’re not going to win just because you’re aggressive - you have to use your mind also,” Pisarenko said. “That’s what makes Tae Kwon Do so special to me. It’s a two way street, physical and mental, just like life.”

Sports Mixed

Mixed Bag

What team was the first champion of the North American Soccer League (1968-1984)?

— The Atlanta Chiefs defeated the San Diego Toros in 1968

Which team captured the most NASL titles?

— The New York Cosmos, five (1972, 77, 78, 80 and 82)

At what age does a male professional golfer qualify to play on the PGA Senior Tour?

— 50

Who are the five golfers who’ve won the U.S. Open and U.S. Senior Open golf championships?

— Arnold Palmer, Billy Caspar, Orville Moody, Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino

Who coached the Los Angeles Rams to their Super Bowl appearance in 1980?

— Ray Malavasi

Who is the only three-time winner of the Super Bowl Most Valuable Player award?

— Joe Montana, San Francisco 49ers

How many coaches have led the Oakland/Los Angeles Raiders to the Super Bowl?

— three (John Rauch, Super Bowl II; John Madden, Super Bowl XI; and Tom Flores, Super Bowls XV and XVIII).

Who was the first catcher to enter the Baseball Hall of Fame?

— Buck Ewing, 1939



Photo by Spc. Joseph Mykal Scarfone

All-Stars

Fort Huachuca’s only traveling soccer team, the Under 8 Traveling All-Stars, are pictured here (from left,kneeling) Matthew Richardson, Jorden Benedict, Erica Baker, Joseph Do, Kai Vukomanovich, Burgan Martin, (middle row) Nicole Richardson, Kristina Benedict, Julian Van Gordan, Austin Worden, Marian West, Ashley George, (back row) Svet Vukomanovich, Dave Worden, Steve West.

Racquetball clinic, tourney for new players

*By Spc. Joseph Mykal Scarfone
Sports Editor*

A free beginner/novice racquetball clinic and tournament will be held at Barnes Field House March 25 and 26.

The clinic will start at 9 a.m. on March 25.

“I’ll teach an introduction to the game,” said Chief Warrant Officer Randall “Elmo” Long, counter intelligence action officer, Intelligence and Security Command, Training and Doctrine Support Detachment.

“I’ll cover the rules to the game, stroke technique and basic strategy of the game,” he added

Long, a three-time All Army Racquetball team member, will head up the clinic and tournament.

The two-day event will be broken down into two parts, the clinic and the tournament. Those wishing to participate in only the clinic, or the tournament can do so, it is not required that both be done.

Tournament play will be broken into two groups, beginner, those who have never played before, and novice, those who have played a little.

Those two groups will then play a bracketed tournament.

“I want to be able to prepare people

for tournament play,” Long said.

“It’s fun to play your buddy, but there is a certain feeling you get when you’re playing at tournament level,” he said.

While the purpose of the event is to teach the basics and fundamentals of the game, Long has other objectives.

“I want to bring racquetball back to the Fort Huachuca community,” Long said.

“I remember when the courts were packed every night with top quality players. We used to have tournaments of hundreds of people, now we’re lucky if we get 50,” Long explained.

The clinic and tournament are open to all Morale, Welfare and Recreation patrons.

There will be awards of T-shirts given to the first, second and third place winners of each bracket. Winners will also be given a copy of Racquetball magazine.

Whether a first-time player, or trying to improve your game, the clinic and tournament will help you to become a better player through learning the fundamentals of the game.

“The game is an incredible workout,” Long said.



Photo by Spc. Joseph Mykal Scarfone

Cougars take county

The Smith Middle School Girls Basketball Team finished first in the Cochise County Athletic League. (From left, front row) Qualisha Rubin, Siouxsie Owen, Niesha Henry, Kayleigh Bate, Melissa Bsaltis, (middle row) Akilah Howard, Autumn Cartwright, Nicole Horton, Fuimaono Wallace, Nicki Anderson, Tiffany Togisala, (back row) Asst. Coach Kimberly Murphy, manager Micaela Martin, Niqui Stewart, Nicole Togisala, Danielle E. Green, Jessica Cheeley, Eustacia Jones, India Burns, Ebony McLaurin and Coach Jackie Branning.

Sports fans salute military heroes at Alamodome

*By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service*

SAN ANTONIO — Defense Secretary William S. Cohen joined about 16,000 sports fans at the Alamodome to honor three Texas Medal of Honor recipients during half-time of an NBA basketball game March 2.



Photo by Linda D. Kozaryn

Defense Secretary William S. Cohen (left) and San Antonio Spurs Chairman Peter Holt (second from left) applaud three Medal of Honor winners, (from left to right) Jose Lopez, Lucian Adams and Louis Rocco, during an NBA basketball game at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas, March 2.

The game pitted the hometown Spurs against the Minnesota Timberwolves. The Air Force Academy Cadet Chorale opened the show singing Lee Greenwood’s “God Bless the U.S.A.” A videotape shown on the stadium’s overhead big screens brought greetings from Texas National Guard members serving in

Bosnia.

At a time when most of a basketball crowd is normally trying to get to the foodstands, most of the people in this arena stayed to honor two World War II heroes and a Vietnam veteran who went beyond the call of duty.

Standing in front of a military Color Guard in center court, Cohen and San Antonio Spurs Chairman Peter Holt greeted the honorees — U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Lucian Adams, 77, and U.S. Army Sgt. Jose M. Lopez, 89, both World War II veterans, and U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Louis R. Rocco, 60, who received his award for actions in Vietnam. The crowd gave a Texas-sized cheer for these three men.

An announcer told their stories.

“On a cold winter day in Belgium in 1945, Army Sgt. Jose Lopez, a native of Mission, Texas, saved his entire company from being surrounded by enemy troops. Under heavy tank and artillery fire, Sgt. Lopez mobilized and manned a heavy machine gun by himself, holding off hundreds of advancing soldiers and preventing their attack from flanking and overwhelming his badly outnumbered company.

“Lucian Adams, a native of Port Arthur, Texas, served as an Army Staff Sergeant

in World War II. In France in 1944, Staff Sgt. Adams bravely charged a superior enemy force, dodging behind trees to escape intense fire from machine guns and grenade launchers. Staff Sgt. Adams single-handedly defeated a specialized force, destroying three machine guns, and reopened critical supply lines to his isolated battalion.

“In 1970, Army Warrant Officer Louis Rocco, a resident of San Antonio, was shot down over the jungles of Vietnam during a dangerous mission to rescue critically wounded soldiers. Warrant Officer Rocco, suffering broken bones and braving heavy enemy fire, jumped repeatedly into the burning wreckage of his helicopter, rescuing all of the survivors of the crash and saving the lives of his comrades.”

Cohen was impressed by the reception the men received from the crowd. “You can sense the commitment the people of San Antonio have to their military,” Cohen said.

In addition to the Air Force cadets, soldiers of the 323rd Army Band and the 49th Armored Division Color Guard and Honor Guard participated in the half-time ceremony.

And, in the end, the ‘Wolves won 108-102.



Photo by Spc. Joseph Mykal Scarfone

Smack down

Fort Huachuca Boxing coach Carlos Figueroa works with first-time student Elizabeth Romero, teaching her the basics of the jab. Figueroa is currently looking for anyone who is interested in boxing. Fort Huachuca is scheduled to host the All Army Boxing trials next year and Figueroa wants to have a solid team. The team meets Monday through Friday at Barnes Field House. Practices start at 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in boxing stop by the field house.

Coronado Knights 5-0 in full-contact football league

*By Sgt. Julius Stroud, III
Special to The Scout*

Last weekend as the gusty winds blew throughout Southern Arizona, the Coronado Knights blew through the Tucson Predators 40-0. In an almost effortless game, the Knights continue to add to their four-game winning streak.

The Knights offense seemed to be running on all cylinders as they put up 40 points, 28 of which were scored in the first half of play. Their offense is commanded by third-year veteran William Brown. Offensive standouts in the game were Christopher Shead (8/44 yards rushing, 1/42 yards receiving, and 2 touchdowns) and DeMonzio Morris (2/52 yards rushing and one touchdown).

Defensively the Knights look just as impressive. The Knights defensive line stunned the Predators by causing over four fumbles and sacking the quarterback over three times, and only allowing one Predators first down. The defensive backs, lead by Julius Stroud, Jason Edwards, James Talbot, and Donald Wright were absolutely stingy allowing no passes to penetrate their secondary.

After the game Head Coach Dale Gotchall said, “This was a fun victory, but we still have a ways to go.”

Saturday the Knights will travel to Tucson again to take on the perennial powered Tucson Dawgs. The Dawgs boast a perfect 5-0 record, and are the SAFL’s 1999 champions. The game is at 2:30 p.m. in Tucson on the corner of Campbell and Drexel.

Rushing Yards:	280
Receiving Yards:	110
Total Yards:	390
First Downs:	9